



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

# Western Region Notes

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JULY 29, 2004

## REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

**Diversity Action Committee:** The tenure of several of our Diversity Action Committee (DAC) members has expired; therefore, we are looking to replace them. The current vacancies include: Management Representative (we are looking for an MIC, HIC, or Division Chief for this vacancy), Native American Special Emphasis Program Manager (SEPM), Non-minority Male Representative, Hispanic SEPM, and Persons with Disabilities SEPM. We are seeking candidates who are enthusiastic about promoting diversity and have a specific interest in one of the roles identified above. Serving as a DAC member is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate leadership and effect change improving the quality of work life in our Region and the National Weather Service as a whole.

The following website contains information on the DAC Charter and roles and responsibilities of the Representatives and SEPMs to give you an idea of what will be expected of you as a DAC member:

[http://ww2.wrh.noaa.gov/diversity/Diversity\\_Action\\_Committee/DacIndex.html](http://ww2.wrh.noaa.gov/diversity/Diversity_Action_Committee/DacIndex.html)

If interested in one of the vacant DAC positions, please submit a nomination through your MIC, HIC, or Division Chief indicating 1) which vacancy you are interested in, 2) why you are interested in being a DAC member and 3) what skills and experience you bring to the DAC. All nominations must be submitted to Michelle Mead ([michelle.mead@noaa.gov](mailto:michelle.mead@noaa.gov)) by August 31. Michelle Mead (DAC Chairperson), Shelley Heaps (EEO Manager), and James Campbell (Deputy Regional Director) will review the nominations and recommend selections to me. Once the selections have been approved, Michelle will contact nominees to let them know if they have been selected or not. If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Mead ([michelle.mead@noaa.gov](mailto:michelle.mead@noaa.gov)) or Shelley Heaps ([shelley.heaps@noaa.gov](mailto:shelley.heaps@noaa.gov)).



**WFO Oxnard Presents Holm Award:** On July 15, the late Joe Cabral Jr. and his wife Barbara were recognized with one of the highest honors given by the National Weather Service, the John Campanius Holm Award. Joe and Barbara began taking rainfall observations in 1947. Sadly, before the award could be presented, Joe, Jr. unexpectedly passed away. Barbara accepted their award from Oxnard MIC Dan Keeton and Dessa Garton-Emch, CPM, at a ceremony held at the Café San Martin in Lompoc, California. The Cabral family and

nearby COOP weather observers were in attendance.

## METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION

**Statement of the Week:** This week's Statement of the Week is a Nowcast issued by DAPM Mike Bruce of WFO Phoenix. Bruce jumped in to assist the forecasters to stay abreast of rapidly changing conditions as the Superstition Mountain thunderstorms began their westward track into the east metro valley. While the forecasters were updating the grids, and monitoring the thunderstorms' progress, Mike issued a short term forecast, that set the stage and mindset of the warning forecasters. This short term forecast accomplished all that a NOW is designed to do. It specifically identified the events, the location affected, the time of onset, and the result in concise terms. Thirty minutes later, a Severe Thunderstorm Warning was issued for the main severe weather event. Winds gusted to greater than 58 mph with blowing dust and heavy rains. This exemplary short term forecast bridged the gap between a forecast of "...a chance for thunderstorms..." and the evening's severe thunderstorm warnings. Great Job Bruce!

FPUS75 KPSR 250056  
NOWPSR

SHORT TERM FORECAST  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE PHOENIX AZ  
556 PM MST SAT JUL 24 2004

AZZ023-250215-  
GREATER PHOENIX AREA-  
INCLUDING THE CITIES OF...BUCKEYE...CAREFREE...CAVE CREEK...  
CHANDLER...FOUNTAIN HILLS...GILBERT...GLENDALE...MESA...PEORIA...  
PHOENIX...SCOTTSDALE...SUN CITY...TEMPE  
556 PM MST SAT JUL 24 2004

.NOW...  
...DUST HEADED FOR THE EAST VALLEY...  
BLOWING DUST...ASSOCIATED WITH THUNDERSTORMS JUST EAST OF APACHE  
JUNCTION...WILL SPREAD INTO MESA...QUEEN CREEK...GILBERT...CHANDLER...  
AND TEMPE BETWEEN 600 PM AND 630 PM THIS EVENING. WINDS WILL GUST  
AS HIGH AS 45 MPH...AND VISIBILITIES WILL BE REDUCED TO LESS THAN ONE  
MILE. THUNDERSTORMS COULD FOLLOW THE DUST INTO THE EAST VALLEY  
BETWEEN 630 PM AND 730 PM THIS EVENING.

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**CWSU Program Review:** Western Region (WR) Aviation Meteorologist Scott Birch conducted a program review of Center Weather Service Unit (CWSU) Auburn, Washington on July 23. The program review was a follow-up to the January 2004 program review, as well as an effort to increase regional oversight of the CWSUs and provide leadership on improvement of the CWSU program. Scott Birch and MIC John

Werth discussed the semi annual FAA evaluation, the WR aviation training plan, and new office equipment, among other administration issues.



**Weather Spotters in the San Diego CWA:** Miguel Miller sits with 13 year old Matt Rosbrook who is the youngest weather spotter among the nearly 800 weather spotters in the San Diego CWA. He came to the forecast office for a few hours on July 6 to learn about the warning and forecast process and how quality spotter reports like his can help the NWS save lives and property. He is interested in becoming a meteorologist when he is older.



**Yavapai County Emergency Communications Department:** Members of the Yavapai County Emergency Communications department came to the Flagstaff NWS office early in July to help with the installation of a new amateur radio antenna. The NWS office is currently working with amateur radio operators in Coconino, Yavapai, and Gila Counties to create an effective amateur radio network to increase the emergency communication services over northern Arizona."



**Newport Beach Fam Float:** Don Whitlow, WFO San Diego, took a Fam Float with the Newport Beach Lifeguards. The fam cruise started from Newport Beach Pier. The cruise director was Brent Jacobsen, a lieutenant with the Newport Beach Lifeguards. During the curse, Brent explained the local swell and winds conditions that are typical for each area along the coast. He also explained how the swells were smaller in the Laguna Beach area with some places catching the swells with some good surf spots. He also explained that the afternoon winds were generally light near Newport Beach

Pier and become increasingly stronger going north up to Huntington Beach. Brent was a great host and it was an excellent familiarization with the area.



*WFO Medford WCM Jim Reynolds addresses attendees of the Port Orford NWR transmitter dedication.*

**WFO Medford Dedicates New NOAA Weather Radio:** On June 23, WFO Medford WCM Jim Reynolds held a dedication ceremony for the new Port Orford, OR NOAA Weather Radio transmitter located at the Port Orford Heads State Park. A total of 13 people attended the event, which was held in a historic W.W.II Coast Guard building located on the state park grounds. With the installation of the Port Orford transmitter, continuous NWR coverage is now available along the southern Oregon coast.



*SOO Tom Salem and STEP Student Taylor Moorman explain how the tornado chamber works to several elementary school students.*

**WFO Glasgow Participates in Montana Fair:** On July 24-27, WFO Glasgow staffed a booth at the Northeast Montana Fair. The fair has a large draw from farming and ranching families throughout northeast Montana, and was a great way for Glasgow staff to talk to spotters in person. Approximately 8,000 people attended the fair during the four days. WFO Glasgow decided after last year's fair to have a larger booth and make it more hands-on for kids to interact with science related experiments. Several experiments were developed by STEP student Taylor Moorman, and Intern Brad Temeyer and Mike Fransen (husband of WCM Tanja Fransen) built a tornado chamber for the fair. The kids and adults all praised the booth, with

one 6th grader commenting that "This was the coolest thing at the fair!" A second grader took such an interest in the booth that after he toured it several times, he started bringing in people he didn't know and gave them the tour without any guidance from the staff.



**Coachella Valley Water District Spanish Transmitter:**

Javier Mata of the Coachella Valley Water District stands by what is the first Spanish language NOAA Weather Radio transmitter in the western United States. The transmitter was recently installed near Cactus City in Coachella, just south of Palm Springs, California. A dedication ceremony is planned for early September.

## SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION

**New Western Region Technical Attachments:** Three new Western Region Technical Attachments may be found on the Western Region Home page at: <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov> under On-Line Publications. These are:

- C August 29, 2002 South Central Montana Flash Flood Event  
By Albert Richmond and Sally A. Springer
- C The Prediction of Minimum Overnight Visibilities at the Fresno-Yosemite International Airport Utilizing Multiple Linear Regression  
By Mark Burger
- C The Rucker Canyon Flash Flood of July 21, 2002: Estimating Discharge for an Ungaged Site  
By Mike Schaffner

**New LMS E-learning Library Access:** All Western Region employees now have access to the NETg and Free Course libraries in the DOC/NOAA/NWS Learning Management System (LMS). Access to the libraries may be found at: <http://e-learning.doc.gov/noaa/>. If you have difficulty signing onto the site, please contact your

SOO or DOH for the correct initial log-in and password. Employees will have access to these libraries through May 31, 2005.

**WES TA-Lites:** The majority of the summer Weather Event Simulator (WES) TA-Lites have been posted to the Western Region Home page and may be found at: <http://www.wr.noaa.gov> under On-Line Publications. You are encouraged to check these out to see what your regional counterparts are choosing for WES training exercises, and if they may be useful in your own office training.

**Local IFPS Images on the Public WFO Web Sites:** WR SSD (Ed Ridley) has been working with OST/MDL (Dave Ruth's group) to display IFPS gridded data on the local Forecast Office web pages at full resolution. Approximately 2/3 of the WR offices produce the IFPS gridded forecast at 2.5km resolution. By WR and MDL collaborating, we are using a common set of image generation and graphical user interface software. As the user zooms out, the software automatically displays the large scale mosaic data produced by MDL on the NWSHQ server. The goal is to provide this software to all regions later this summer. This is one of the first deliverables of the WR IFPS Web team.

**Teletraining Sessions for August:** The Virtual Institute for Satellite Integration Training (VISIT) and the Integrated Sensor Training Professional Development Series (ISTPDS) sessions for August are listed below. Offices can register for the teletraining sessions by sending email to: [visit@comet.ucar.edu](mailto:visit@comet.ucar.edu). The teletraining calendar is at: <http://www.cira.colostate.edu/ramm/visit/ecal.asp>.

The sessions currently scheduled for August are:

- C **\*\*NEW\*\* - QuikSCAT Winds**  
(Basic: August 3,12,17,25)
- C **Forecasting Convective Downburst Potential Using GOES Sounder Derived Products**  
(Basic: August 10)
- C **Interactive Cloud Height Algorithm and GOES Sounder Point Retrievals in AWIPS**  
(Basic: August 4,24)
- C **Water Vapor Channel Satellite Imagery**  
(Basic: August 9)
- C **Lightning Meteorology I**  
(Basic: August 11)
- C **Lightning Meteorology II**  
(Advanced: August 12)
- C **The Enhanced-V: A Satellite Severe Storm Signature**  
(Basic: August 23)

All sessions can be reviewed in advance by following the instructions in the student guides available on the ISTPDS/VISIT page:

<http://www.cira.colostate.edu/ramm/visit/visithome.asp>.

**North American Monsoon Experiment (NAME):** The North American Monsoon Experiment is underway. The NAME Forecast Operations Center is issuing guidance forecasts for the Tier-I region in northwest Mexico and the Southwest U.S. The Extended Observational Period (EOP) is underway and will continue through August 31.



Details on the experiment, including the daily forecast guidance for the NAME decision makers, can be found at: <http://www.joss.ucar.edu/name>.

**Eighth Annual Great Divide Weather Workshop:** The Great Divide Weather Workshop will be held September 8-10 in Billings, Montana. The time for the workshop is quickly approaching. If you are still interested in attending or presenting, some key deadlines are approaching.

The workshop will be held at the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Billings (Phone:1-800-588-7666). A block of rooms has been secured at a rate of \$55.00 per night by mentioning the National Weather Service. **Reservations must be made by August 23 to ensure this rate.** The hotel will provide complimentary transportation to and from the airport. A courtesy phone is located at the baggage claim at the airport. Call to arrange transportation with the hotel.

If you plan on attending or presenting at the workshop please R.S.V.P. to Byz.Great.Divide.Workshop@noaa.gov. Please note if you will be attending the banquet which is scheduled for the evening of September 9 at the hotel. The banquet will be a buffet style and the menu will be posted on the workshop website at <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/Billings/GreatDivide.shtml>. Cost for the buffet will be \$20, which will be collected during registration the first day of the workshop. The scheduled key note speaker for the banquet will be Michael J. Hayes from the National Drought Mitigation Center. Mike will present a pictorial look at drought across the country.

**Topics or abstracts must be sent to the workshop via email by August 15, 2004 to ensure inclusion in the workshop preprint.**

If you have questions, please contact William Rasch at 406-652-0851, fax 406-652-3214

## **SYSTEMS OPERATIONS DIVISION**

**Bear Lake NWR:** The NOAA Weather Radio upgrade for Bear Lake Utah has been completed. The transmitter was upgraded to 150 watts, a new antenna, a new receiver, and a generator was also installed. The generator install could not have been completed without the expertise of Tom Page and a few amateur radio people. Tom worked on the site 3 days with very short notice.

**Quillyaute:** FET Michael Belarde addressed numerous facilities issues at the Quillyaute, WA Upper Air site, including several inspections, securing of Hydrogen Cylinders, and overseeing the contracted painting of the facility.

**Boise Program Review:** An SOD program review was conducted at the WFO Boise. SOD staff in attendance was Jeff Walker, Sean Wink, Son Nguyen, and Kevin Bolton. Several ASOS sites were visited along with the NEXRAD facility. Once again, invaluable insight was gained from both the office and region perspectives.

**AWIPS:** The beta test of the OB3.3 AWIPS Build was installed at Reno and Western Region Headquarters on July 22. The installation went fairly smooth with no major

issues. Plans for the install of OB4 beta build is tentatively scheduled for mid August and will be installed at Boise and Reno.



**Vegas 88D Cool-Down:** The WFO Las Vegas 88D Air conditioners were replaced just in time for their Monsoon season. FETs Jim MacLellan, Randy Miller, and Tom Page installed new 6 Ton Bard units to replace the aging 5 Ton units, which were no longer able to keep the shelter cool in the Vegas desert. The FETs worked through 105 degree temps, getting the job down with minimal down time. Great Job!

